PROPOSALS

FOR THE

ACTUAL SURVEY

Of all the **Counties** in

ENGLAND and WALES:

BY

Mr. *ADAMS* of the *Inner-Temple*.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

THE true measure of a *Meridian Line*, and the difference of Latitude between the North and South Points thereof, hath been the Enquiry of the best Geographers in all Ages, being the onely means from whence to calculate the true Compass of the Globe of Earth and Water, supposed to be exactly Spherical, and to know how many Miles do make a Degree in any Course at Sea upon a great Circle.

And although the Experiments of our Country-man Mr. *Norwood*, between *York* and *London*, and of *Fernelius*, *Snellius*, *Riccioli*, and the Eminent *Picartus* beyond Sea, already extant in Print, may be thought sufficient on this Subject, yet (the first recommending his Essay to a more correct way of Measure then he used, and all the others differing in their methods, and disagreeing in the resolution of the thing in Question, and in the adjusting of the Measures of several Nations) the certain truth of this matter doth hitherto remain doubtfull.

The said Mr. *Adams* for clearing this Important Problem, doth intend to measure a true *Meridian Line*, from the Town of *Monmoth*, situate upon the Southern Borders of *Herefordshire*, to the Northern Borders of *Cheshire*, and to take the exact Latitude of *Monmoth*, *Hereford*, *Shrewsbury*, *Chester*, and *Warington*.

He doth fix upon this part of the Kingdom because (having formerly made Proposals for the actual Survey of *Shropshire*) he already hath the Subscriptions of above one hundred and fifty of the most considerable Gentlemen in the said County; and the Survey thereof had been completed before now, had not the finishing of his *Index Villaris* of all the Cities, Market-Towns, Parishes, Villages and Private Seats in *England* and *Wales*, (distinguished by Symbols) and an Alphabetical Table of all the Nobility and Gentry, now ready for the Press, hindred that Work.

And being of opinion, That a true *Coasting-Line* of the KINGDOM, together with the said *Meridian-Line* will be a sure foundation to carry on the Survey thereof, especially if such *Meridian-Line* be continued from *Monmoth* to the Southern Sea on the Coast of *Dorsetshire*, and from the Northern part of *Cheshire* to the Parallel of *Barwick*: and conceiving that such Survey may be perfected, and large County-Maps engraved within the space of Four Years, to commence from the 25. day of *March* next 1681. He hopes that the Gentry of this Kingdom will be as ready to encourage this Design, as they were to Subscribe for his Great Map of *England*, wherein the Computations and Measures of Miles are entred in Figures.

In the MEASURE of the said MERIDIAN-LINE.

I. *He will, with the assistance of an able Surveyor, measure a much greater Stationary Distance then* Picartus *did, backward and forward, and, besides the Chain and Wheel, will make use of Pikes screwed together, for the adjusting of such Measure.*

II. *That in taking the Angles of Position he will use the best Instruments that can be gotten, and compare the way of* Snellius *by Pinnules, or Common Sights, with that of* Picartus, *by Telescopes.*

III. *To prove the Truth of such Measure, he doth design, That his Brother,* William Adams *of* Longdon, *in the County of* Salop, *Esquire, (a person very well known in the said three Counties of* Salop, Chester, *and* Hereford, *for his Ability and long Experience in Survey) with the assistance of another able Artist, shall measure a different Station with the same Exactness, and proceed in all things as is before proposed, and that if his Brother measure from North to South, he will measure from South to North.*

IIII. *That, in taking the several Latitudes of Places, he will use very large Instruments, and make the Observations double and apart, and proceed therein as he shall be directed by the ablest Mathematicians, whose Advice he desires, in an Experiment of so great Importance and general use to all Mankind, but more particularly to the Trading part of the World.*

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He intends by two, or more, skilful Surveyors to take the true Circuit, or Girth-line, of the whole Kingdom, from the Shore near *Carliſle*, in *Cumberland*, to the Lands-end, in *Cornwal*, and thence to the *North foreland*, in *Kent*, and ſo to *Barwick* Bounds Northwards, and from thence, the Borders dividing *England* from *Scotland* to the Place where the Meaſure did begin: Which being done, he will divide the Kingdom into four Parts, and imploy eight able Surveyors in taking the Angles of Poſition of all the eminent Places therein, *viz.*

I. *Two ſhall undertake the twelve Counties of* Wales, *and the County of* Monmoth, *and ſhall begin their Survey from the ſaid Meridian-Line.*

II. *Two more the Counties of* York, Lancaſter, Weſtmerland, Cumberland, Northumberland, *and the Biſhoprick of* Durham.

III. *Two more the Counties of* Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, Warwick, Worceſter, Gloceſter, Oxford, Bucks, Northampton, Leiceſter, Rutland, Cambridge, Huntington, Bedford, Hertford, Eſſex, Norfolk, *and* Suffolk.

IIII. *And the Two laſt the Counties of* Cornwal, Devon, Somerſet, Dorſet, Wilts, Southampton, Berks, Midleſex, Surrey, Suſſex, *and* Kent.

And as for the four Counties of *Salop*, *Cheſter*, *Hereford*, and *Stafford*, the ſaid Mr. *Adams* will (by God's aſſiſtance) within the ſpace of 18 months perfect the Actual Survey of three of them, and the County of *Stafford* is already more then half done, by Mr. *Gregory King*, *Rouge-dragon*, Purſivant of Arms, being aſſiſted by Mr. *William Gent*, an able and experienced Surveyor, in ſo correct a manner, that he doubts not but the Borders of *Cheſhire* and *Shropſhire*, adjoining thereunto, when the ſame are finiſhed, will perfectly cloſe therewith.

And beſides, the ſaid Eight Surveyors, who from the Tops of every Hill, Steeple or other Eminent Place, ſhall take the true Bearings, and thereby put all the Cities, Market-Towns, Pariſh-Churches, Chapels, Villages, Hamlets and Private Seats in their due Poſition, which he conceives to be the fixing of about 40000 Points, he will imploy thirty perſons in the perfecting of the ſaid Work. Ten to make an Actual Survey of all the Rivers, Rivulets, Mears and Standing Waters, and of the 800 Cities and Market-Towns in *England* and *Wales*: Ten more to meaſure all the Roads of the Kingdom: And Ten more to take the true Circuit, or Girth-line of each County, and of all the Hundreds, Forreſts, Chaſes and Parks therein, ſo that nothing may be omitted to compleat the ſaid County-Maps.

But if in the meaſuring of the ſaid Coaſting-Line, it be thought requiſite by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty and the Lords of His Council, That the Sands, Shoals, Rocks, Havens, Bayes, Roads, Harbours, Ports, Soundings, Buoys, Beacons, Sea-marks, *&c.* be accurately obſerved and ſet down, he conceives, That the ſame cannot be done, without a convenient number of ſmall Veſſels attending that Service, and which being for the common good of the whole Kingdom, the charge ought to be defrayed by the Publick Purſe. But he cannot compute the certain charge thereof without conſulting able and experienced Sea-men.

And having now ſpent ſix years in the Geographical Study of this Kingdom, and peruſing all the Authors he could meet with, who have Mapped or deſcribed the ſame, or any part thereof, and making uſefull Collections ſutable to carry on ſo great a Work, he now makes his Application to both the Univerſities for their Advice in the Regulation thereof, and to the Nobility and Gentry for their encouragement by Subſcriptions, and to induce them thereunto, he makes the following Offers.

I. *He doth undertake to publiſh an Account in Print of the true Meaſure upon the Surface of the Earth, which will anſwer to a Degree in the Heavens, and of the true Circuit of* England *and* Wales, *by the 25th. day of* March, 1682.

II. *That he will finiſh the Survey of the ſaid three Counties of* Salop, Cheſter, *and* Hereford, *by the 29th. day of* September, 1682. *and that each of the ſaid County Maps, and all his County Maps, with the Ornament thereof, ſhall be at leaſt two Foot deep, and three Foot long; and that he will therein inſert all the Towns, Villages, Private-ſeats, Roads, Rivers, Rivulets, Mears, Standing waters, Forreſts, Chaſes, Parks, Woods, Hills, and whatever elſe ſhall be thought uſefull for the perfecting thereof.*

III. *That he will, by way of Bordure, add an Alphabetical Table of all the Gentry of each County, and grave their ſeveral Coats of Arms, larger then in* Dr. Plott's *Map of* Oxfordſhire, gratis. *Provided, That due Information be given him of the Blazon of ſuch Coats.*

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THE PROPOSALS.

I. *The Perſon who ſubſcribes for any of the ſaid County Maps ſhall have the ſame paſted upon Cloth; well coloured, and with Rowler and Ledge, for ten ſhillings each Map, to be paid upon delivery: and if any Tradeſman or other Perſon will ſubſcribe for five Maps, he ſhall receive ſix.*

II. *But, foraſmuch as the Meaſuring of the ſaid Meridian and Coaſting line will put him to the Charge of Eight hundred pounds or upwards, in preparing accurate Inſtruments and imploying a conſiderable number of Perſons to aſſiſt him in that Work, he makes it his Requeſt, that ſuch of the Nobility and Gentry who will encourage that Deſign by Subſcribing for the printed Account thereof, will, at the ſame time, advance the Money by them ſubſcribed, and he will allow the ſame in County-Maps as the ſame ſhall be finiſhed: and publickly acknowledge their Favor, by printing therewith a Liſt of ſuch Encouragers.*

The Propoſals may be had *gratis* at the Shop of Mr. *Pen*, a Stationer, near the *Temple* Church.

We whoſe Names are underwritten do each of us ſubſcribe according to the true Intent and Meaning of theſe PROPOSALS.

For the Printed Account in the Second Propoſal	For the County of *Salop*	For the County of *Cheſter*	For the County of *Hereford*
For the County of	For the County of	For the County of	For the County of